



ONONDAGA FREE LIBRARY

Long-Range Plan 2015 - 2020

Approved by: _____

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Long-Range Plan

Onondaga Free Library is chartered to serve the residents of the Town of Onondaga including the Westhill Central School District residents in the Town of Geddes. Onondaga Free Library is a suburban member of the Onondaga County Public Library system. The Long-Range Plan was put together to guide the library Board of Trustees and staff to meet the needs of the Onondaga Library Community over the next five years.

Library History

Onondaga Free Library began operations in 1961 as the library occupied 700 square feet on the second floor of the old Onondaga Town Hall building. The initial operation of the library 2 staff members, 2,500 items in the collection and was open 17 hours a week. In 1967, the library had outgrown its space and began planning for a new building location. At this time the yearly circulation was over 26,000 with more than 6,000 items in the collection and the library was open 22 hours a week. In December 1969, Onondaga Free Library moved to its current location on Seneca Turnpike with a two story building and 7,000 square feet. As circulation continued to increase, the Town residents in 2007 passed a referendum to support and finance the expansion of the library. The renovated library was rededicated on May 1, 2010 with a total space of 18,000 square feet, 19 staff members, over 51,000 items in the collection, and open 57 hours per week. In 2014, Onondaga Free Library was voted best in Syracuse by the readers of the Syracuse New Times. Notable events included Best Buy Geek Squad Academy, Career Human Library, Mission LEGO, and Bells & Motley. A Little Free Library was installed in Nedrow at the Green Hills bus stop.

Library Use

During 2014, the library had the following usage by the community:

Patron visits	99,742
Materials checked-out	210,209
Holds placed on materials	41,120
E-books checked out	9,566
Number of borrowers	24,834
Computer sessions	12,489
Total program events	934
Program participants	11,048
Meeting rooms use	1,138

Mission Statement

The purpose of Onondaga Free Library is to provide reading materials, reference information, internet and word processing access and audio-visual resources to the community, as well as access to other information sources through existing county, state and national networks. The library also serves as a community meeting place and cultural center. In addition, children's programs are provided with emphasis on preschool learning.

Selected Primary Role:

- Popular materials library

Secondary Role:

- Community meeting place
- Preschoolers door to learning
- Electronic doorway library

Long-Range Plan

Over the next five years, Onondaga Free Library has set the following goals and objective with strategies which will guide the library:

1. Create a welcoming, accessible and customer-service focused environment that meets the needs of the community

Objectives:

- Provide a knowledgeable staff that will meet the service needs of our patrons and support the project initiatives of the library
- Provide safe environment that supports the growing needs of the staff and community
- Provide a virtual presence that meets the needs of patrons

Strategies:

- Develop a sustainable staffing model to support service and program goals of library
- Increase professional development opportunities to all staff to support continuing and new service initiatives
- Evaluate building and grounds upgrades and maintenance needs on a yearly basis, addressing patron recommendations and staff needs
- Develop building reconfiguration plan to meet the increase in programming, collection and service needs of the community
- Evaluate library services for improved customer service and access
- Enhance web presence

Long-Range Plan, Continued

2. Create opportunities for life-long learning and discovery

Objectives:

- Provide collections and digital resources that inspire community to explore and research the topics they are passionate about
- Develop and promote programming opportunities for all ages

Strategies

- Evaluate and support print and digital collections based on circulation and patron feedback and identify new collections and resources to offer community each year
- Identify and invest in technologies that support library services and programs
- Expand programming initiatives that support all ages, from children to seniors

3. Create services, collections and programs that support literacy in all its forms

Objectives:

- Offer innovative programs that support early literacy goals of community
- Provide program opportunities and services that support digital literacy goals of community and help bridge the digital divide
- Support existing literacy services and resources

Strategies:

- Evaluate and expand collections that support literacy initiatives
- Identify and invest in services and technology to expand literacy initiatives
- Create access to emerging technologies that support patrons needs
- Develop new programming opportunities

4. Collaborate with community members, organizations, and leaders to develop partnerships that meet the community's learning needs

Objectives:

- To continue building on current partnerships and foster new ones to meet community needs
- Build on and strengthen current school district relationships
- Find new collaborators and partners to fulfill community needs

Strategies:

- Identify collaborators and volunteers to build on community needs
- Meet regularly with school and community representatives to foster partnerships
- Seek new partnerships with early literacy and business partners

Long-Range Plan, Continued

5. Increase community awareness of resources and programs available at the library

Objectives:

- Expand awareness to library community including users and non-users
- Create a platform for the community to engage with the library
- Invest in a targeted approach for social media

Strategies

- Develop a communication plan with regular actions at daily, weekly, and monthly intervals
- Incorporate meaningful and relevant social media platforms for community engagement
- Evaluate online presence on a regular basis for information relevance

6. Diversify funding streams to obtain goals and plan for future capital improvements

Objectives:

- Meet the changing needs of the library community
- Plan for future capital improvements with stable resources
- Develop a plan to grow the per capita library spending

Strategies:

- Continue to grow tax support at a steady level
- Encourage additional fundraising initiatives from Friends and Board of Trustees
- Apply for larger grants including NYS Construction Grants, IMLS Grants
- Develop a yearly capital improvement plan and resource allocation with Board of Trustees